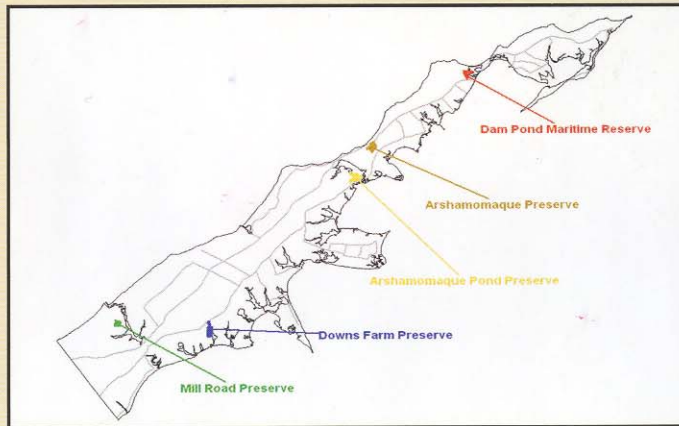


Welcome to Arshamomaque Pond Preserve:

This 53.8-acre parcel of land was purchased by the Town of Southold as part of the Arshamomaque Preservation Plan. The property is part of the Long Island Pine Barrens Maritime Reserve and was listed for protection because of its exceptional scenic, biological, and recreational resources. The preserve has over 2,500 feet of shoreline frontage on Hashamomuck Pond (Mill Creek) and includes tidal salt marsh meadows, pristine woodlands, and vernal freshwater ponds and wetlands. This unique natural complex ranks as one of the most valuable and productive coastal and marine ecosystems in the nation.

Site History:

Originally the creek was called Thomas Benedict Creek, named after one of Southold's first settlers who was a miller by trade, and later shortened to Tom's Creek. After more than 200 years of the channel-way (the present railroad bridge) being used to turn millstones, the creek became known as Mill Creek, which is interchangeable with Hashamomuck Pond, today. The Arshamomaque area is known for its particularly fine clay that was used for brick making. The Sage and Sanford Brickyards produced millions of bricks from 1887 to 1939 from clay mined in this area.



Help protect and maintain the natural beauty and wildlife habitat of the area.

Please:

Stay on designated trails.

Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints.

Leash your dog.

Check carefully for ticks after your walk.



Educational content provided by the Marine Program of:

Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
of Suffolk County

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities.

The Arshamomaque Pond Preserve is open to the public year-round from dawn to dusk.

Southold N.Y.



Town of Southold



PO Box 1179
Southold N.Y. 11971
631-765-1800
<http://southoldtown.northfork.net>

Trail Guide



ARSHAMOMAQUE POND

PRESERVE

Habitat and Wildlife:





Arshamomaque Pond Preserve includes large stands of mixed hardwood forest. The forested areas are dominated by oaks and hickories, but include birches, maples, American beech, and a stand of mature white pines. Vernal pools and ponds occur throughout the woodlands due to the clay deposits that prevent surface water from draining into the soil. These wet areas support wet tolerant plants, like high-bush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, and swamp azalea, and provide breeding areas for salamanders, newts, frogs, and toads. By mid-summer, the water in most of these areas will be drawn-down, leaving few indications that these wet conditions had existed. Whitetail deer, red fox, raccoon, and squirrels reside in the woodland areas of the preserve.

Another freshwater community exists in the preserve. A freshwater marsh, dominated by the invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*), provides a secluded area for waterfowl including black ducks and mallards. Small areas of the marsh have not succumbed to the advances of *Phragmites* and support swamp rose, swamp azalea, grasses and sedges. Frogs can be seen hiding along the edges of the emergent grasses, waiting for insects to wander by.

Salt marsh meadows are another large community in the preserve. Salt marshes are found along Hashamomuck Pond, both north and south of the railroad tracks. The seaward edge of the marsh (low marsh) is dominated by salt marsh cordgrass, which slowly gives way to the high marsh meadow of spikegrass and salt meadow hay. At low tide, few animals are obvious, save the occasional great blue heron or egret stalking the channels and pools on the marsh for fish or fiddler crabs. A closer look reveals exposed ribbed mussels and the rare "bank" oyster along the marsh edge, as well as the air-breathing salt marsh snail, which climbs down from its high perch on a grass blade to graze on microscopic algae left behind. At high tide, the marsh is filled with animals. Mummichogs and killifish swim over the marsh, while blue crabs search for prey along the cordgrass edge.



Key:

- | | | | |
|---|------------|---|--------------|
|  | Blue Trail |  | Preserve |
|  | Red Trail |  | = Trail Head |



Site Map

For more information about this and other recreational opportunities in the Town of Southold, please contact:

Town of Southold

631-765-1800

PO Box 1179

or:

Southold NY 11971

<http://southoldtown.northfork.net>

